Non-profit, by fans, for fans, and all that. Supporting the author would be the right thing to do

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アオハライド

AO HARU RIDE

PAGE 17

咲坂伊緒

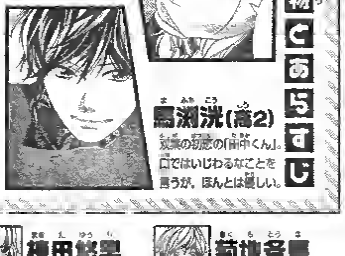
SAKISAKA IO

前回の注目シーン

登場人物とあらすじ

吉岡双葉（高2）

初恋の人。誘に高校で再び出会い好きになった。お互いで学校生活をしようと協力中



鳥渕洸（高2）

双葉の初恋の「前中くん」。口ではいじわるなことを言うが、ほんとは優しい。

小清亜耶

イベント大好き。様子が気になる？

村尾修子

一話題。同中先生が好き

横田悠里

双葉の友達。洸を好きに…。

菊地奈鳥

赤面症。双葉と知り合い。

HIS HAIR IS ALL FLUFFY
DID YOU OVERSLEEP?
I WAS LOOKING AFTER THE CAT
SO I FORGOT THE TIME
Keeping a cat is dangerous.
SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE REALLY DOTING ON IT
THAT'S JUST WHAT I DO,
ONCE I DECIDE TO CARE ABOUT SOMETHING
Kou's changed a bit
In a good way..

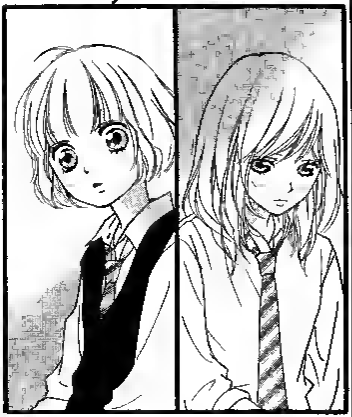
OH, SURE.
CAN I COME SEE IT SOON?
...I think
he's caring about the cat now, and he's accepted all of us as well.
So it really does seem to be a good development...
THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL'S COMING UP NEXT MONTH...
HOW ABOUT YOU ALL COME?
SURE!
Even though he said he didn't want to care about anything,
But I get the feeling that the distance between he and I is back to where it started.

THERE'S A MEETING AFTER SCHOOL FOR THE EVENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS!
...and nothing else, huh.
I guess Kou only thinks of that...
...is getting carried away by the mood.
there's one more thing.
And speaking of changes,
Kou's developed the habit of checking his phone regularly
At some point during the summer,

IS KIND OF ABSTRACTEDLY HANDSOME,
AND IT'S STRANGE
He never looks this way.
It's strange, and I don't like it.
MABUCHI-KUN FIDDLES WITH HIS CELL PHONE A LOT LATELY DOESN'T HE?
The look on his face at those times...

ARE YOU HOLDING BACK?
You're avoiding the topic of Masuchi-kun
OH! YOUR LUNCH LOOKS TOTALLY YUM—
—Ah_ Chocolate_
AH, I GUESS SO, HUH?
I'M NOT HOLDING BACK!
YOU SAID YOU WOULDN'T DO THAT!

BUT TALKING TO YOU ABOUT KOU
IS STILL KIND OF HARD
I'M NOT!
STARE
ARE YOU PITYING ME?
BECAUSE YOU FEEL SORRY FOR ME FOR GETTING REJECTED?
THAT'S NOT IT, BUT...
IF I TALK ABOUT KOU...
AND THEN YOU'LL END UP CHEERING ME ON, WON'T YOU?
YOU'LL LISTEN TO ME, RIGHT?

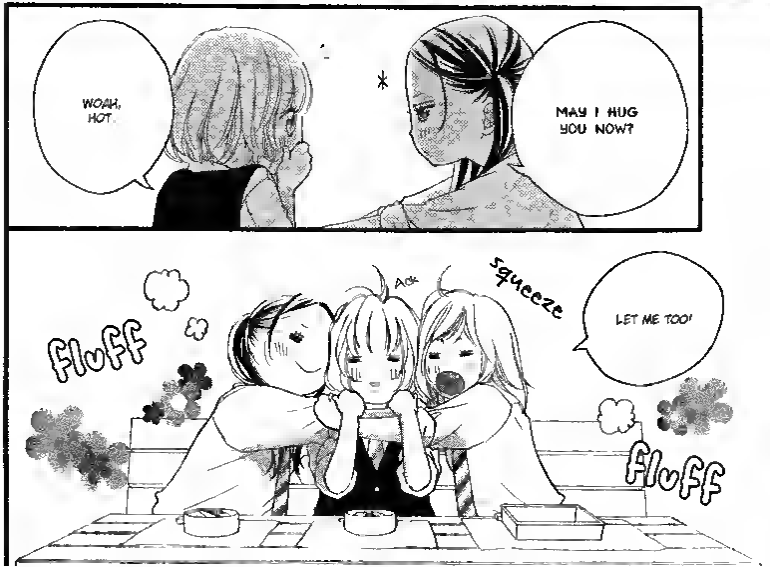


I JUST DON'T WANT TO CAUSE YOU TO HAVE TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
JUST TO MAKE ME FEEL BETTER

THEN ALL THE MORE REASON FOR YOU TO TALK FREELY

TALKING ABOUT MABUCHI-KUN,
ISN'T JUST FOR YOUR SAKE.
IT'S FOR MY SAKE AS WELL.

IT IS PRETTY HARD, OF COURSE.
BUT PLEASE LET ME LOOK GOOD AS WELL, OKAY?
YUU
WHEN I TALK ABOUT MABUCHI-KUN WITH YOU
I GET TO HAVE THAT FEELING THAT I HAVE A "BIG HEART" AND IT MAKES ME FEEL GOOD ABOUT MYSELF.


WOAH, HOT
MAY I HUG YOU NOW?
fluff
squeeze
LET ME TOO!
fluff

EVEN THOUGH HE WON'T TAKE ME SERIOUSLY IN THAT WAY,
HE ACTS [illegible] SOMETIMES.
HOW ABOUT TANAKA-SENSEI?
HE'S THE SAME.
IT'S LIKE.
I CAN NEVER TELL WHAT KOU IS THINKING. YOU KNOW?
MM, YEAH.
THE ONLY ONE WHO'S EASY TO UNDERSTAND IS KOMINATO-KUN, HUH?
EVEN KOMINATO-KUN...
...HAS NEVER TOLD ME HE LIKES ME TO MY FACE.
WITH THE WAY HE ACTS, I'VE NO WAY OF TELLING HOW SERIOUS HE ACTUALLY IS.

BASICALLY BOYS
ARE SURPRISINGLY COMPLICATED, I GUESS?
Whaaat? No way
Stand!
Bow!
WELL THEN, THAT'S IT FOR TODAY.
Anyway,
KOU!
HAVE FUN...
OH RIGHT, THE EVENT COMMITTEE.
WE'VE GOT THAT MEETING, SO WE'LL SEE YOU LATER

I need to confirm...
YUI?
THE OTHERS ARE BUSY TODAY, SO I'M BORED
D'YOU WANT TO STOP BY SOMEWHERE TOGETHER?
MM...
I'M A BIT TIRED TODAY
...what the distance between us is right now
OH
IT COULD MAKE UP FOR THE FESTIVAL?
THAT'S ALL IT'LL TAKE?
HUH
HUH?

I WAS JUST KIDDING
WAIT!
IT'S FINE LET'S STOP BY SOMEWHERE
NEVERMIND, WE'LL DO SOMETHING ELSE TO MAKE UP FOR THAT!
I'M KINDA HUNGRY ANYWAY...
FORGET ABOUT TODAY!
SUCCESS!
ALL RIGHT!
LET'S GO
.. how he feels about me
But still,
I really can't tell...

From what point does someone start counting as special to him?
COME TO THINK OF IT,
I WONDER WHAT OUR CLASS WILL DO ABOUT THE CLASS REP POSITION?
OH YEAH MORI-KUN'S TRANSFERRING, ISN'T HE
AH,
TOUMA, WHY DON'T YOU DO IT? BE OUR CLASS REPRESENTATIVE
WHAT, NO—
I'M NOT CUT OUT FOR THAT SORT OF THING
...
DON'T JUST PICK ANY RANDOM PERSON TO SUPPORT
HMM? BUT I THINK IT'D SUIT YOU SURPRISINGLY WELL

HOW NICE... AN AFTER SCHOOL DATE, HUH
I want one too
AH, THAT GIRL...
IT'S THE GIRL TOUMA WENT TO TALK TO AT THE FIREWORK FESTIVAL, ISN'T IT?
I DIDN'T TALK TO HER ABOUT ANYTHING LIKE THAT!
I TOLD YOU!
SHE'S GOT A BOYFRIEND TOUMA, THAT'S TOO BAD FOR YA!

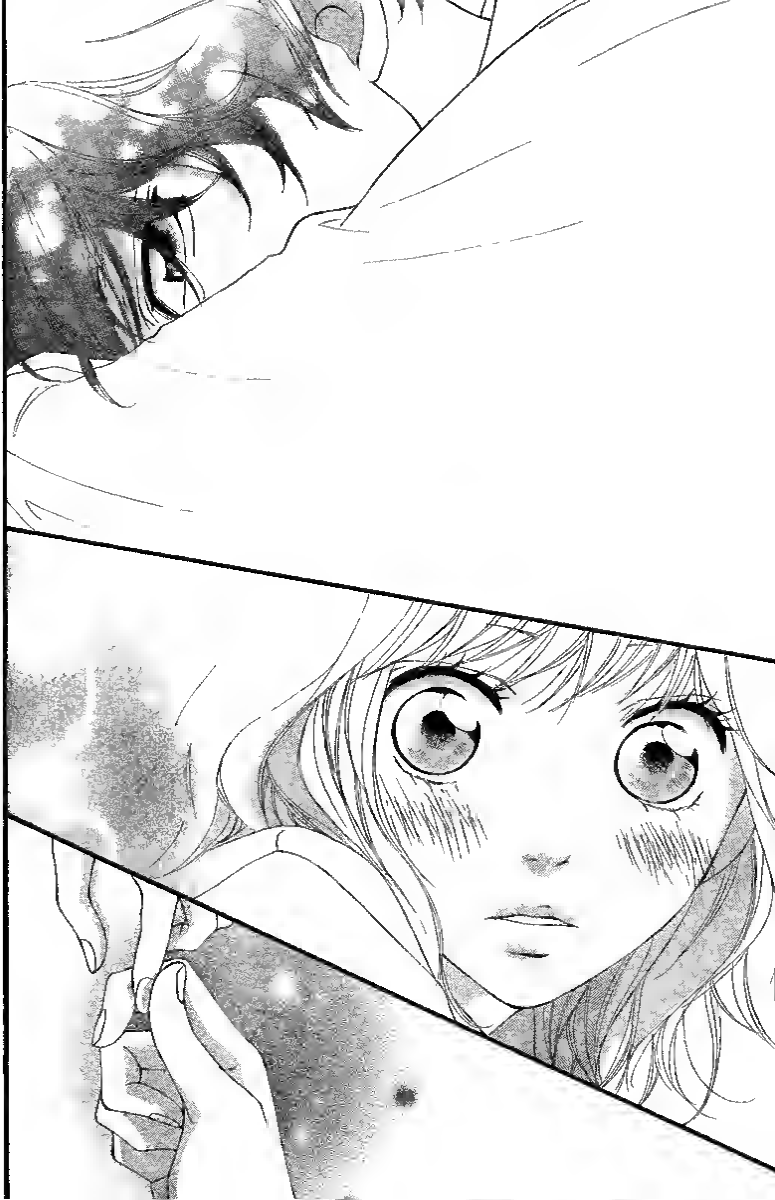
I GUESS NOT
I CAN'T REALLY PICTURE YOU WITH A GIRL WHO LOOKS AS FIERCE AS THAT, ANYWAY
SHE'S NOT REALLY FIERCE, THOUGH
DON'T YOU THINK YOU'D BETTER NOT TALK THAT WAY ABOUT PEOPLE YOU DON'T KNOW?
...

HM?
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU WERE HUNGRY?
ARE YOU ONLY GETTING SOMETHING TO DRINK?
DID I?
...that saying he was hungry...
Is it possible...
...

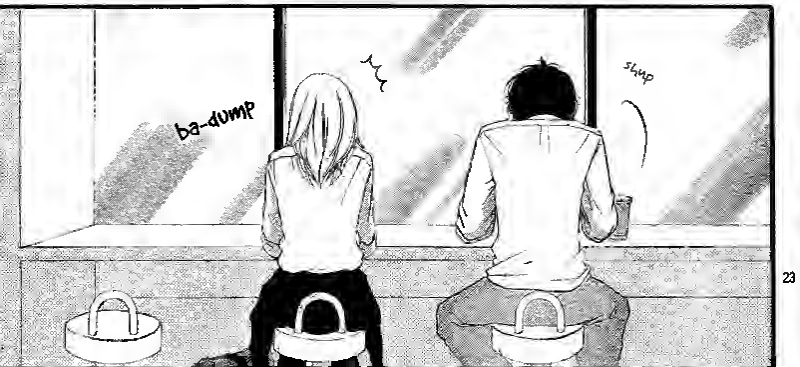
WOMAN
NO NO NO
I WON'T FEEL REASSURED...
BY SOMETHING SO UNCERTAIN
...was just an excuse to stop by somewhere with me?
I'd be pretty happy if that was it.
AH, WHAT, IS HE ASLEEP?
HE DID SAY HE WAS TIRED, BUT...
H-
HEEEY...

IT'D BE A SHAME TO WAKE HIM UP
WOAHH
HE'S LOOKING COMPLETELY ADORABLE...
ba-dump
glance
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO SOMEONE HELP ME
AAAH I JUST LIKE HIM TOO MUCH AND IT'S MESSING WITH MY HEAD!

IT'S KIND OF FUN TO IMAGINE
AHAHA, HE'S BEEN SCRATCHED BY THE CAT
AH ... IS HE ONLY HALF ASLEEP?
grab



let go
...
YOUR NAILS ARE TINY!
Was he awake the whole time?
Was
THEY'RE NOT TINY
thump
thump
THEY'RE NORMAL


ba-dump
slump

I'm so glad I painted my nails!
WHAT KIND OF DEMON PLAY WAS THAT!
I'M GOING TO THE BATHROOM
HEYYY, DID YOU SEE THAT JUST NOW?!
That lucky bastard
WHAT-EVER, JUST GO!
YOU WANTED TO GO BY THE CONVENIENCE STORE, RIGHT?
My hair is okay too! Good!
Mirror.
smack

YUP.
AH, YOU'RE BACK
HUH?
I CAN'T COME UP WITH SOMETHING JUST BECAUSE YOU TELL ME TO...
AH
...
SAY SOME-THING
...
THEN UHM
WHY DID YOU GO TO NAGASAKI?
I mean, am I allowed to ask?
YEAH, SURE
ONE OF MY OLD CLASSMATES' DAD PASSED AWAY,
SO I WENT TO HIS FUNERAL

FOR A WHILE HE STAYED AT THE SAME HOSPITAL...
AS MY MOM
SO I GOT TO KNOW MY CLASSMATE PRETTY WELL WHEN WE WERE BOTH VISITING
OH...
I SEE...
T/N Excuse any weirdness. Kou doesn't use gender specific pronouns about his classmate so I'm trying to avoid using he/she
HE WENT IN FOR SURGERY A LOT,
SO I THOUGHT HE MIGHT GET BETTER AGAIN, BUT, WELL...
SO THE PERSON YOU'VE BEEN TEXTING WITH SO MUCH LATELY IS THAT OLD CLASS-MATE...?
YEAH

Even though I found out the reason he keeps checking his phone...
I GET HOW IT ALL FEELS BETTER THAN ANYBODY
I wonder why...
YEAH
IT SEEMS THINGS ARE STILL A BIT HARD, AND THEN THERE'S THE WHOLE THING WITH STARTING AT A NEW SCHOOL IN THE SECOND SEMESTER...
WE DON'T LIVE ALL THAT FAR APART NOW SINCE THEY MOVED.
Ah
That's right.

This is all part of something I can't understand even if I try
This classmate of his must have a lot of things it's impossible to talk to other people about
OH
GO AHEAD
A lot of things that can only be said to Kou
SPEAK OF THE DEVIL, I GUESS
DO YOU MIND?
HEY

I'M FINE IF SOMETHING'S GOING ON, YOU SHOULD GO
NO, BUT...
OH, UHM...
THIS ISN'T REALLY A GOOD TIME...
I'M WITH A FRIEND RIGHT NOW
IT'S FINE!
GO!
ALL RIGHT.
Excuse me then.

THE PERSON'S GOING THROUGH A TOUGH TIME, AFTER ALL...
YUP
BUT FOR SOME REASON I STILL FEEL ABANDONED
IT'S NOT AS IF KOU, WHO'S TRYING TO BE SUPPORTIVE...
IS DOING ANYTHING WRONG
He's actually being really amazing.
THAT PROBABLY MAKES ME SELF-CENTRED

AH...
slam
slam
WHAT?!
Scary
SORRY, I'M GONNA GO.
TOUMA?
HUH, WHY, WHAT HAPPENED?

WHAT?
WHA-?!
HE WENT BACK TO THE PLACE WE JUST LEFT?
YOU DON'T THINK...
TOUMA'S ENTERED THE RACE?
Squeal.

The reason I've been feeling like the distance has increased again between Kou and I...
is because he has other things on his mind now.
If only the distance between us had been reduced to zero then...
At the railroad crossing just now
What was it you tried to tell me?
then this situation might have affected us differently
CONSIDERING THAT I SUPPOSE I SHOULD JUST HAVE TOLD HIM...
WHEN I HAD THE CHANCE THAT NIGHT

YOSH...
BANG!
WOAH!
JUUUST KIDDING!!
AH,
KIKUCHI-KUN
WHA.
WHAT'S WRONG?

HUH?
I JUST SAW YOUR BOYFRIEND LEAVING...
DID YOU HAVE A FIGHT OR SOMETHING?
AH,
YOU'RE NOT A COUPLE?!
NO, NO, HE'S NOT MY BOYFRIEND!
DID IT SEEM THAT WAY THOUGH?
WELL, I MEAN, WE DO GET ALONG VERY WELL.
Boasting
I... I SEE.
SO THAT'S ALL
WE'RE CLASS REPS TOGETHER AND STUFF...

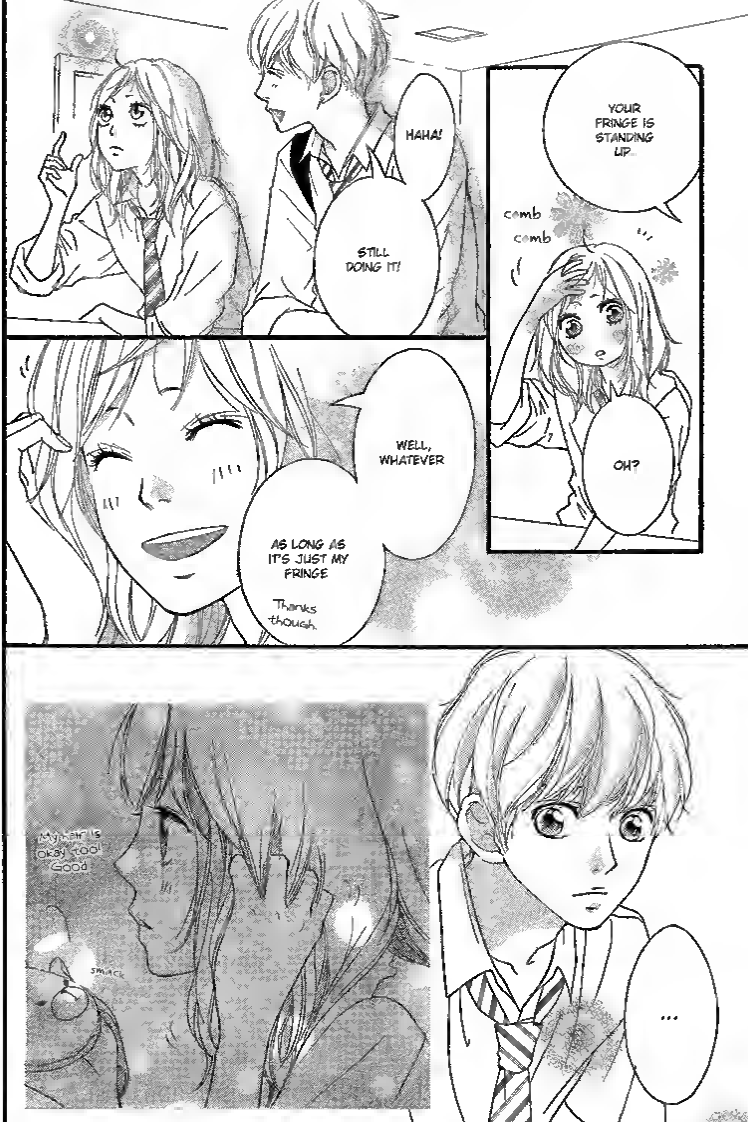
NAH IT'S NOTHING
I JUST FELT DOWN FOR A SEC,
THINKING ABOUT SOMETHING I SHOULD HAVE DONE DIFFERENTLY
THEN WHAT'S THE MATTER?
YOU LOOKED PRETTY DEPRESSED
Oh is it okay if I sit next to you?

BUT INSTEAD OF WALLOWING IN REGRET,
I SHOULD JUST FIGURE OUT HOW TO FIX THINGS.
...

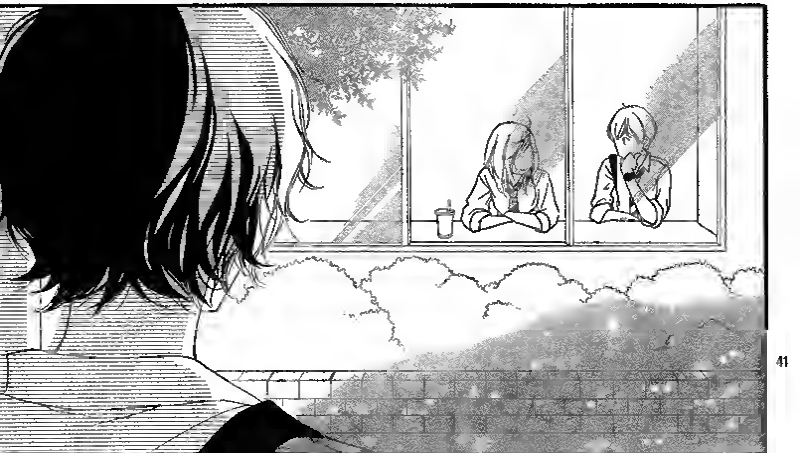
rub
rub
IT'S FINE, I'M FINE
rub
rub
SLUMP
SHUP
SHE'S REALLY GREAT...
...THIS GIRL
LOOKS LIKE SHE MIGHT NOT BE AS FINE AS SHE SAYS HUH...
BUT SHE'S STILL DOING HER BEST TO PICK HERSELF UP

...
HEY, IT'S ME
SORRY, TODAY'S NO GOOD AFTER ALL

SORRY
I'M GOING TO LET THE FRIEND I MADE PLANS WITH FIRST
TAKE PRECEDENCE
AH...
YOSHIOKA-SAN


HAHA!
STILL DOING IT!
YOUR FRINGE IS STANDING UP.
comb comb
OH?
WELL, WHATEVER
AS LONG AS IT'S JUST MY FRINGE
Thanks though.
My hair is okay, too! Good
SMACK
...

IS SOME-
THING WRONG,
KIKUCHI-KUN?
OH... NO,
IT'S NOTHING



I ACTUALLY
REALLY WANT THIS GIRL
...TO LIKE ME.
THAT GUY AGAIN.
WHAT'S HIS DEAL?

I DON'T GET GIRLS
It's all right.
If the distance between us is back to where it started,
then I...
...will definitely close it again.